

REMARKS

Claims 11-20 remain in this application. Claims 1-10 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The comments on claims 14-16 provided by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action are noted with appreciation. Claim 14 is rewritten in independent form above and should be allowable. Claims 15 and 16, which depend on claim 14, should be allowable as well.

Independent claim 11 and independent claim 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with dependent claims 12-13 and 18-20, as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,648,085 to Nagura et al. in view of U.S. Patent 7,057,306 to Belschner et al. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 11 above specifies that the electrical power generating system includes an electric power distribution module attachable to a side wall of a container in which the specified first and second modules are jointly mounted and that can be connected, via connector elements on at least one wall of the electric power distribution module, to certain elements. It is respectfully submitted that these limitations patentably distinguish the invention from the disclosures relied on by the Examiner. The Nagura et al. case 45 receives methanol and water storage tank 41, reforming unit 42, fuel cell 43, and secondary battery 44, but none of these elements constitutes an electric power distribution module as claim 11 requires. The Belschner et al. arrangement includes a fuel cell 2 having poles 21 and 22 connected to a plug connector 23, and a housing 19 having a corresponding plug connector part 24. Connector 23

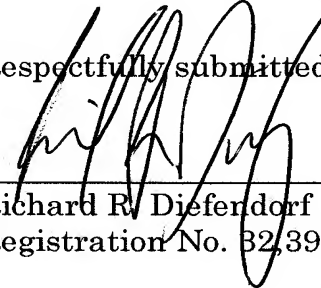
is associated with the fuel cell 2, however, and there is nothing to suggest that connector 23 and part 24 of the Belschner et al. arrangement constitute connector elements on a wall of a electric power distribution module as claim 11 particularly requires. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 above is patentable. Dependent claims 12 and 13 should be patentable as well.

Similar limitations appear in claim 17 above, and it is also submitted that claim 17 is patentable. Neither the Nagura et al. methanol and water storage tank 41, nor the Nagura et al. reforming unit 42, nor the Nagura et al. secondary battery 44 constitutes a third module as claim 17 requires, and, for reasons discussed above in connection with claim 11, there is nothing to suggest that connector 23 and part 24 of the Belschner et al. arrangement constitute connector elements on a wall of a third module as claim 17 requires. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 17 above is also patentable. Dependent claims 18-20 should be patentable as well.

All of the claims in this application should now be allowable for reasons discussed. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.56170US).

Respectfully submitted,



Richard R. Diefendorf
Registration No. 32,390

Date: August 11, 2008

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
RRD:rd